

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Examiner is also thanked for indicating that claims 6, 9, 10, 15, 17, and 19-26 contain allowable subject matter. The Final Office Action dated July 8, 2010 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2, 3, 11, 13, and 19-21 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 27-29 are added. No new matter has been added. Applicants note that dependent claims 19-21 all depend from claim 22 and are of improper form. Applicants cancel claims 19-21 and reintroduce them as new claims 27-29 to correct the informalities. Accordingly, claims 6, 9, 10, 15, 17, 22-29 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as an improper definition of a process. The Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,217,333 to Loblich.

To advance prosecution, Applicants have canceled claims 2, 3, 11, and 13. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 3, 11, and 13.

The application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: September 14, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

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